

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /055 W

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P R 161959Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 681

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONGEN PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES MAJOR PLANS TO MAKE GUYANA INTO
SOCIALIST STATE

1. SUMMARY. AT DEC 15 RALLY PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM
ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MAKE GUYANA INTO "FIRST TRULY SOCIALIST
STATE ON CONTINENT OF SOUTH AMERICA". THESE PLANS INCLUDE NEW
CONSTITUTIO
ITO BE DRAFTED IN 1975, RIGOROUS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
PARTY LEADERS, GOVT TAKEOVER OF ALL LAND NOT IN PRODUCTIVE USE, AND
GOVT CONTROL OF ALL FOREIGN TRADE. BURNHAM, WHO OPENLY STATED
THAT RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS WAS ABOVE THE GOVT, APPEARS
TO BE TAKING GUYANA FURTHER TOWARDS FORMAL ONE PARTY STATE.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT MASSIVE AND CAREFULLY STAGED DEC 15 RALLY TO MARK TENTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS GOVT, PRIME MINISTER FORBES
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BURNHAM ANNOUNCED MAJOR PLANS TO MAKE GUYANA INTO "THE FIRST TRULY

SOCIALIST STATE ON THE CONTINENT OF SOUTH AMERICA". AFTER BEGINNING WITH BRIEF REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAS TEN YEARS, BURNHAM REVEALED DECISIONS APPROVED BY PNC SPECIAL CONGRESS DECEMBER 14-15. PRIME MINISTER DISCLOSED THAT IN 1975 "THE PARTY, THE PEOPLE, AND THE PARLIAMENT" WILL DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION FOR GUYANA. NOTING THAT CONSTITUTION "GRANTED" AT INDEPENDENCE HAD BECOME IRRELEVANT SINCE IT WAS "REPLICA OF ETHICS AND IDEOLOGY OF FORMER COLONIAL MASTERS", BURNHAM SAID GUYANA MUST NOW HAVE CONSTITUTION SUITED TO ITS NEEDS. LATER IN HIS ADDRESS, BURNHAM LEFT LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT NEW CONSTITUTION'S PRINCIPLES WHEN HE STATED "THE PARTY COMES BEFORE THE GOVT...THE GOVT IS INFERIOR TO THE PARTY".

2. BURNHAM ALSO OUTLINED RIGOROUS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PNC "LEADERS" MAJOR PROVISIONS OF CODE PROHIBIT PARTY "LEADERS" FROM ACCEPTING GIFTS, HOLDING STOCK IN COMPANIES, SERVING AS DIRECTORS OF COMPANIES, RENTING OUT PROPERTY, ENGAGING IN PRIVATE BUSINESS EMPLOYING MORE THAN TEN PERSONS OR USING FOR PERSONAL BENEFIT INFORMATION GAINED BECAUSE OF PARTY OR GOVT POSITION. PARTY "LEADERS" MUST DECLARE ALL PROPERTY IN SWORN STATEMENT BY MARCH 31, 1975. FOR PURPOSES OF CODE, PARTY "LEADER" IS DEFINED AS PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC, PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY GENERAL, PNC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AND PARTY OFFICERS.

3. OTHER IMMEDIATE CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY BURNHAM INCLUDE GOVT TAKEOVER OF ALL PRIVATE LANDS NOT IN PRODUCTIVE USE, GOVT CONTROL OF ALL FOREIGN TRADE, ABOLITION OF FEES AT UNIV. OF GUYANA EFFECTIVE NEXT SEPT, AND INSTITUTION OF COMPULSORY COURSES ON COOPERATIVE SOCIALISM IN SCHOOLS. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT DETAILS OF THESE DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC SOON, AND THESE CHANGES WOULD BE EMBODIED IN "DECLARATION OF SOPHIAZ" SHORTLY TO BE RELEASED. IN CLOSING HIS ADDRESS, BURNHAM SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO REPORTING TO THE PEOPLE AFTER TEN MORE YEARS OF PNC RULE.

4. BURNHAM'S BRIEF COMMENTS ON REYNOLDS TAX/NATIONALIZATION DISPUTE REPORTED SEPT 11.

5. COMMENT. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DRAFTING OF NEW CONSTITUTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT ARE MAJOR STEPS IN PRIME MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BURNHAM'S MOVE FROM PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WHICH HE INHERITED IN 1964 TO ONE PARTY STATE. NEW CONSTITUTION WILL MOST LIKELY SET UP INSTITUTIONS OF ONE PARTY STATE, AND CODE OF CONDUCT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE DISCIPLINED, COMMITTED, SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP. BURNHAM'S OPEN STATEMENT OF PARTY SUPREMACY OVER GOVT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROVOKE OPPOSITION FROM VARIOUS PARTIES AND GROUPS, BUT AT THIS POINT NONE APPEAR ABLE TO OFFER SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE.

6. IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF CODE OF CONDUCT ON PNC IS NOT YET CLEAR.
IF CODE IS STRICLTY ENFORCED SEVERAL MINOR FIGURES IN PARTY INCLU-
DING MOHAMED KASIM, MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, WILL BE
FORCED TO GIVE UP PROPERTY OR BUSINESS INTERESTS IN ORDER TO
RETAIN THEIR POSITIONS. OTHER LEADERS WOULD ALSO BE EMBARRASSED
BY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THEIR PROPERTY HOLDINGS.
KREBS

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